



Tomah Middle School



December 2020 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Believe it or not, we are closing in on the end of a historic calendar year. As we look back to what the beginning of the school year has brought us, we are extremely thankful for the family support and the accomplishments of our students. We hope you have seen the positive changes from what we had fourth (4th) quarter last year to looking ahead to what the rest of their year holds for us.

November brought us the opportunity to celebrate our Veterans. On behalf of all our staff and students at Tomah Middle School, I want to thank everyone who took the time from their busy schedule to send photos to TMS for our Veterans Day Video Presentation. Given our Covid situation, we felt this was the best way to honor our veterans. Thank You Veterans!



We hope the Thanksgiving break offered the time for you and your families to enjoy quality time together that can be difficult to come by during the school year. What a great time to take a moment to remember and appreciate the things in life for which we are thankful.

I have created an “A and B” calendar for the remainder of the school year. You should have received this via e-mail or in the mail if you do not have an active e-mail account. For your convenience, the calendars are also posted on our middle school web page under parent resources.

Again, thank you for all the support you have provided your child. We hope the school year has been a great experience for them as our teachers love having the students in the building. If you ever have any questions regarding your child’s success at TMS, please do not hesitate to contact your child’s teacher or our offices so we can assist you. Have a great rest of December. With the temperatures dropping, be sure your kids are bundled up.

Sincerely,

Michael Chapes
Principal

Amy Langner
Assistant Principal

NEWS FROM THE TEAMS

Northstars (Team 6-1) Mr. Kirschbaum

I hope this note finds all of you safe and healthy. If your child needs to contact a teacher, the best way to do this is via email, not Teams. Please have your child use the teacher's name, then tomah.education as the email. An example would be toddkirschbaum@tomah.education. As we work through the second quarter, please check with your child about supplies. We are noticing that many students are running low on pencils, notebooks, and folders.

Sky-High Learners (Team 6-2) Mrs. Rabe

With the arrival of winter, you will find your students digging into algebraic equations focusing on exponents for Math. Students must be comfortable with greatest common factor and least common multiples of two whole numbers so that they can feel the happiness of success as we conclude Unit 1. In English, your child will experience chills writing personal narratives and pick one narrative to take through the writing process. Seemingly frozen to their books, students need to continue to read at home so that they can have that toasty feeling of accomplishment. In Social Studies, students will slip and slide through the reconstruction of our great nation after the Civil War. Students will track the weather and weathering of the Earth's surface in Science. We hope you enjoy the warmth of the holiday season. This would be a great time to replenish any supplies your child may need. We are sure that pencils and erasers are on everyone's list.

Leading the Pack! (Team 7-1) Mr. Manke

Team 7-1 is continuing to see great work from our students. Keep up the good work.

Science: We continue to work on our Force and Motion Unit and look forward to completing our net forces lab when the students return to school. We will then work on the Properties of Matter Unit.

Math: Students till complete Unit 2: Numbers and Operations. We learned how to add and subtract positive and negative integers. Next we will learn how to multiply and divide positive and negative integers.

ELA: We learned how to pick story ideas for realistic fiction. Next, we will be giving our characters struggles, drawing out our plots, and beginning to write.

Social Studies: Students continue their adventure as young Geographers into the Western Hemisphere. They will explore the land, society and cultures of Latin America in the coming weeks.

The 72'ers (Team 7-2) Mr. Ewers

November flew by and here we are already into December!! Below is what your child will be experiencing this month.

Science: Students will be exploring computer coding and 3D printing this month!! They will be designing and building robots to perform numerous tasks, as well as programming drones to fly around the room carrying out competitive missions.

Math: We are finishing up working with adding, subtracting, multiplying and dividing positive and negative rational numbers. There will be a Number System Unit Assessment to conclude the unit.

Language Arts: After reading The Outsiders and investigating authors' craft, students will be writing their own realistic fictional narrative.

Social Studies: Early advanced civilizations developed in this region of the Americas. Their people developed economies based on farming and trade. They built planned cities and developed highly organized societies and governments. The arrival of the Spanish and other Europeans had a dramatic impact on the region and its indigenous peoples. The influence of European colonial rule and the struggles for independence can still be seen in the economies, politics, and cultures of the region today.

The Rockin' Roosters (Team 8-1) Mrs. Hruska

Team 8-1 would like to wish “Happy Holidays” to Everyone!

We are well into career planning with the Counseling Office, and your child has looked at their interests to find careers that might be a good fit for them. We have our last two career planning hours coming up in December. Those will be followed up with meetings that we'd like you to attend with your child this spring before high school registration time. It's important for parents to be involved so we recommend signing up for parent infinity access if you don't already have that.

Social Studies: We are continuing with European History.

Science: We will be focusing on energy, work and simple machines. We will look at all the different types of energies found in our world and what we use them for. We will also take a look at how simple machines such as screws, levers and pulleys make life easier for us all.

Math: We are going to be moving into learning about slope and functions!

ELA: As we finish our Dystopian book club unit, we will move on to “Essential Research Skills for Teens” and writing argument essays.

The Survivors (Team 8-2) Mr. Balz

Thank you again for your patience and support as we navigate all the changes we've experienced this school year. When attending school from home, students are expected to remain class during work time, even if they don't have any questions. Students are encouraged to ask for help, too. We know that asking for help over Teams isn't the same as asking for help in class, but we are here to help students through their assignments. Please let us know if you have concerns about your student's grades, their schedule, their assignments, etc.

COUNSELOR'S CORNER

The Counseling Office is open for walk-in office hours for students before school, lunch, or after school. Stop on by, we look forward to meeting you!

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DECEMBER AWARENESS **DATES**

12/1: World AIDS Day

12/1-7: National Handwashing
Awareness Week

12/2: Special Education Day

12/3: International Day of Persons with
Disabilities

12/5: International Volunteer Day

12/10: Human Rights Day

12/15: Bill of Rights Day

DECEMBER 2020

TMS SCHOOL COUNSELORS:

Ms. Windl: 6th grade and 8th graders last name A-K.

Ms. Hayes: 7th grade and 8th graders last names L-Z.

During the month of November, we spent time in the 8th grade classroom starting our career & educational planning work on Xello. 8th graders have been exploring careers they are interested in, taking personality inventories, learning about their skills, learning about the transition to high school, and understanding the importance of self-advocacy. We look forward to continuing to have conversations about career and educational planning with your student!

We continue to have conversations with students about the importance of taking care of their mental health & focusing on self-care during this

time. Some great ways for you and your student to implement self-care this month: get enough sleep, drink plenty of water, get in physical activity, journal, read, draw, take a bath, take time to clean, game night, connect with loved ones via FaceTime, phone calls, emails, or text messages. Remember, your student's School Counselors are here if they need to talk to someone.

Lastly, we are so happy to have Peace of Mind Counseling LLC, an outside therapy and counseling service, in our school again this year! *If you are interested in your child being a part of this wonderful therapy resource, please have them see one of the School Counselors!*

TIPS FOR KEEPING A ROUTINE IN YOUR HOUSEHOLD

1. Get up at a reasonable hour & similar time each day
2. Make your bed every morning
3. Get out of your pajamas & dress for the day
4. Wash your face, brush your teeth, brush your hair. Shower & keep up with your hygiene
5. Eat well-balanced meals
6. Make a schedule for your school work
7. Take breaks-go outside, walk around
8. Drink plenty of water!
9. Limit time on social media & time watching the news
10. Have a consistent night-time routine.

Resources for parents:

[Tips and Scripts for Managing Screen Time When School is Online](#)

[Keeping Kids Motivated for Online Learning](#)

DECEMBER 2020 EVENTS

Thursday, December 10

End of 4 ½ week classes

Friday, December 11

Begin 4 ½ week classes

Wednesday, December 23

Christmas/Winter Break Begins



Friday, January 1

Happy New Year!

Monday, January 4

School Resumes

